

THE A.P.R.O. BULLETIN

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VOL. 23, NO. 2

TUCSON, ARIZONA

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1974

Close Encounter In



Shown above are Patrolmen Gary Steinberg and Tom Brown, and the NBC Crew who filmed the witnesses and the site of the November 6, 1973 Long Island sighting (see page 1 of the January-February 1974 Bulletin) which will be featured on the NBC News UFO Special on December 15, 1974. Photo by Dick Ruhl, APRO F.I.

San Antonio Airline Case

An outstanding case which received some media attention but was overshadowed by other UFO activity in the fall, 1973 flap, took place in the skies over San Antonio, Texas on the morning of October 23, 1973. We are grateful to Jon Webb of the *National Enquirer* for the full details of his interviews with the principal witnesses as follows:

At 2:26 a.m., the San Antonio Department of Public Safety was inundated with telephone calls from curious and anxious citizens describing a bright red ball of fire moving silently through the sky. An official of the Department called the control tower at San Antonio Airport, where 33-year-old Air Traffic Controller James Stevens overhead the conversation and scanned the southern sky. Seeing nothing, he shrugged his shoulders, and dismissed the reports as figments of imagination.

Then he glanced to the west of the

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New York

By Douglas Dains

On October 19, 1973 at 10:00 a.m. EDT, I received a report of a possible landing of a UFO on the farm of Stanley Wishinsky in Owego, New York. I dispatched Mr. Hank Addison, who assists me on such investigations, to obtain a preliminary report. Mr. Addison's report contained enough information to warrant a further investigation, although no landing had occurred as the initial report stated.

On October 22, 1973, my wife and I arrived on the farm of Mr. Wishinsky and asked to talk to the two principal witnesses, Mr. Lincoln (Link) Howe, 25 years old, of Rt#96, Owego, N.Y., and Stanley Olkowski, 16 years old, who resides at the residence of Stanley Wishinsky.

OBSERVATION:

Mr. Howe reported that while he was in the process of rounding up the cattle for morning milking (0545 a.m. EDT), he noticed a blue and red object coming over the barn heading east. Mr. Howe was approximately 20 feet from the barn facing west and estimates the object to have been about 200 feet above the barn. The barn is approximately 50 to 60 feet high at its highest point. The object had a fire engine red body with a dark blue dome on top and Mr. Howe estimates the size of the object as that of a plate held at arm's length. After watching the object for approximately 5 minutes as it passed over his head (no color or lights could be seen under the object), Mr. Howe called Stanley Olkowski, who was in the barn at the time doing chores, to come out and see the object. At this point, it was approximately 200 yds. from the witnesses and at the same height of 250 to 260 feet. Mr. Olkowski estimates that when he saw the object, it was about the size of a silver dollar at arm's length. Both men said that the object gave them the impression it was spinning but the object's blue dome and red body at no time pulsated, gave off rays, changed shape, etc. There was no noise from the object. As the object passed over, five cows, which were still in the pasture, began to run in all directions. Two of them jumped a four-foot barbed wire

Five Occupants

Two Landed Objects

Before the unusual happenings in the Southeast United States in October, 1973, some equally strange things were transpiring in Canada. Field Investigator Wido Hoville has forwarded several cases, among which the following is most fascinating. The witnesses have asked that their identity be kept in confidence so we will refer to them as Mr. and Mrs. R., who reside on Huron Street in St. Matthias, Province of Quebec, Canada.

At 12:45 a.m. on October 6, Mr. and Mrs. R. took a walk near their home to get some fresh air before retiring. Suddenly Mrs. R. noticed a bright "spotlight" on their farmland about 1650 feet from their house. She pointed it out to her husband, saying, "Look over there - somebody seems to be searching for something." Her husband said it was probably the police chasing cattle thieves. Mr. Hoville points out that since the price

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New Book

The book on UFOs which has been long awaited is now available in book stores. Titled "The Utah UFO Display: A Biologist's Report," it documents some very interesting cases in the Uintah Basin in Utah, which were personally investigated by the author, Dr. Frank B. Salisbury, APRO's consultant in Exobiology.

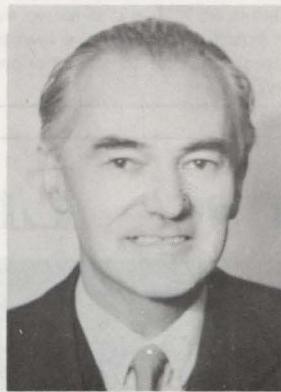
Dr. Salisbury has done an excellent job of investigation and comes up with some thought-provoking ideas concerning the motivation of the UFOs.

Before the manuscript went to the publisher, Dr. Salisbury asked the Lorenzens to read it and furnish supplemental information from the APRO report files. Consequently, Dr.

Salisbury kindly mentioned them in the preface. Also, Mrs. Lorenzen was pleased to note that Dr. Salisbury listed her in the dedication along with the Uintah Basin UFO watchers. In 1962 when Mrs. L. published her first book, she read a wire service article about Dr. Salisbury and his work and, impressed with his ideas and approach, wrote to him and sent a copy of the book. Subsequently, after a half-hour conversation by telephone with Mrs. L., Dr. Salisbury joined APRO and urged his colleague, Dr. James A. Harder (who is now APRO's Director of Research) to join also. It was the beginning of the APRO Scientific Consulting Staff.

We highly recommend this book, which can be ordered at your local book store or directly from the Devin-Adair Company, Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870. Price: \$7.95.

Reverend Cockburn Joins Consulting Staff



The newest member of APRO's Consulting Staff is Reverend Norman J. Cockburn, Ph.D. of Surrey, England.

Dr. Cockburn was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on April 16, 1906 and attended Scottish Secondary School until 1925 when he finished as Captain of the school of 1200 pupils. He then attended Edinburgh University, majoring in Moral Philosophy and received his M.A. in 1928. In 1931, he took his B.D. with honors in New Testament Studies and the Reformation Period. In 1952, he was awarded a Doctorate in Philosophy in the field of Patristics.

In the same year Dr. Cockburn was appointed Secretary-General of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which has been responsible mainly for the translation of the Bible in whole or part into approximately 1400 languages.

Dr. Cockburn's travels and accomplishments are so many that they cannot possibly all be listed here, but he is eminently qualified to serve on APRO's Consulting Staff. He is currently occupied with the construction of a UFO Encyclopedia.

Convinced of the reality of the UFO phenomenon, Dr. Cockburn has no single theory of explanation and considers the subject not merely worthy of scientific examination but essential for man's better knowledge of himself because he must "stretch" to comprehend it.

22 Years Ago In The Bulletin

The following article appeared on page 1 of the September, 1952 issue of the APRO Bulletin:

THE GREEN MONSTER: On the night of September 13, Mrs. Kathleen May of Flatwood, West Virginia and her three children, two other youths, and national guardsman Gene Lemon climbed

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Encounter

(Continued from Page One)

fence on the south end of the pasture tearing it down as they did. Another ran through the north fence, sustaining a cut to the right side of her udder and a large cut to the left frontal portion of her head. Note: The pasture is approximately 250 yds. by 450 yds. It took both men until 11:00 a.m. to get the cows into the barn for milking. The object itself was lost to sight as it went over the rise on the east end of the pasture. The witnesses claim they have never had any trouble before getting the cows in for milking. All cows gave milk that day but not as much as they normally would. Since the sighting, the men have had a hard time getting these five cows in the barn. As a result, they planned to leave them inside for a few days before letting them out again in hopes that they will come in more easily, as was the case prior to the sighting. Mr. Howe and Mr. Olkowski were reluctant at first to report the sighting but decided they had better call the Tioga County sheriff to investigate. These cows are worth about \$800 each and they didn't want a recurrence of this incident.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

The Tioga county sheriff received the initial report at 6:15 a.m., October 19, 1973. Deputy Edward R. White was dispatched to the Wishinsky farm to investigate. I interviewed Deputy White on October 24, 1973. He stated that when he arrived at the farm of Mr. Wishinsky, the two witnesses related their story to him of the UFO. Deputy White noted that the cows were quite upset as were the witnesses. He drove down Gary Hunt Road and stopped his car at the bend in the road. He said that he thought he heard something so he rolled down his window and listened. What he heard were two dogs at a nearby farm house which is east of the pasture where the sighting took place. Both dogs, one hound and one German shepherd, were barking and howling. Deputy White thought that it was unusual that the hound dog wasn't chasing anything such as a rabbit. "Usually when a hound dog is as upset as this dog was, he would be chasing something, but both dogs just stood there barking and carrying on and both were facing east." This is the direction which the object was reported to have departed. There were no lights on at the farm where the dogs were. The Deputy presumed the occupants of this farm were not up yet. Further investigation revealed that the residents of this farm did hear the dogs and thought it was unusual but they didn't bother to investigate.

Deputy White told me that he believes something unusual did occur on the farm of Mr. Wishinsky that morning but just what it was he couldn't say. He did state,

however, that he believes the witnesses did see something unusual as both men were quite upset.

PERSONAL DATA:

Witness Lincoln (Link) Howe, age 25, Occupation farmer. Education: 12th grade. Vision: 20/20 without glasses. Mr. Howe has had no military training. He has had no previous experience with UFOs. He has read only newspaper accounts of UFO sightings.

Witness Stanley Olkowski, age 16, Occupation farmer. Education: Quit school at the 10th grade level. Vision: 20/20 with glasses. He has read some books on UFOs but has never seen any UFOs prior to this sighting.

INVESTIGATOR'S OBSERVATIONS:

There were no physical effects to the witnesses other than the normal trauma in such cases. Both witnesses seemed sincere and very cooperative. Both witnesses gave their permission to use their names in relation to this report. The Tioga County Sheriff's Department personnel were very cooperative, helping to obtain pertinent information.

As for the height and size of the object, I believe this was much closer to witnesses than reported and possibly the object was tilted slightly when first observed. I also don't believe the witnesses fully understood the arm's length concept of measurement.

1. The temperature was 50 degrees, calm, clear with stars.

2. Airport check made by the Sheriff's Dept. of Broome County and Tioga County airports came up with negative results of any aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting.

3. There was a radio playing inside the barn at the time of the sighting but neither witness could remember if there was any interference at that time.

4. Mr. Howe told me that around 8:00 a.m. on the day of the sighting, there was a helicopter flying around the area. A check of this came up with negative results.

5. The IBM plant of Owego is approximately four miles from the area where the object was reported. This would be southeast of the Wishinsky farm. There are also a number of railroad tracks within a five-mile area.

Occupants

(Continued from Page One)

of beef went up in 1973, there had been some cattle thievery in the area. After a few minutes, the "spotlight" went out and the couple went home and forgot about the incident.

On the next morning, the R.s had workers at their home to install a new wrought-iron balustrade in the rear of their home. Mr. R. was helping to install the connection of a welding machine in the basement and Mrs. R. was busy

washing clothes. At 11:15 a.m., Mrs. R. took some laundry out to hang on the clothesline. While hanging the clothes, she noted heavy dark smoke rising into the sky from approximately the same location where they had seen the "spotlight" earlier that morning. Several neighbors later confirmed having seen the smoke in that area at that time. Mrs. R. described the smoke as similar to that given off by burning rubber tires. Mr. Hoville doubts that the smoke had anything to do with the first sighting or what transpired later. The smoke lasted approximately 30 minutes. No fire was seen and Mrs. R. was astonished because, to her knowledge, there was nothing in the field which could burn, as the ground was still wet from rainfall the preceding Friday.

While watching the smoke, Mr. and Mrs. R. suddenly saw what they described as a "dome-shaped" tent of orange-yellow color" about the same distance (1650 feet) from their house as the "spotlight" seen earlier.

Out from this "tent" (which the R.s estimated to be 75 feet in diameter) came what the R.s described as a "bulldozer" which was approximately 1/4 the size of the larger object. The smaller object moved 200 feet away from the large object, became stationary, then went out of sight toward a spring, disappearing from sight behind a slope. Before the smaller object left, out from the "big tent" emerged what Mr. and Mrs. R. described as five "scouts" of small stature dressed in bright, yellow-colored clothing "much brighter than the clothing of highway workers." They appeared to be very busy running between the large object and the smaller one. Mrs. R. said they had "some sort of helmets on their heads" and that because of the high grass only the upper part of their bodies could be seen. The movements of their arms were clearly observed, however.

No windows or doors were noted on the objects and the outlines were not sharp, but somewhat hazy.

Mr. Hoville notes: "It seems incredible but nobody asked himself what was going on." The workers installing the balustrade did not notice the UFO nor did the R.s call their attention to it. The witnesses continued their normal business, and after returning to the observation spot, found everything — the large object and the five "scouts" — gone. They wondered how this could have happened without the object and "scouts" passing close to the house.

Mr. and Mrs. R.'s daughter arrived at home at 12 noon and upon hearing what her parents saw, she immediately visited the area where the objects were seen and found a straight track of flattened grass about 6 inches wide leading to the spring. Where the largest UFO had been located, the grass was flattened and discolored,

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Occupants

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and three imprints arranged in a triangular pattern were found, each of which measured 1 foot, 10 inches by 1 foot, 3 inches. These impressions were exactly 34 feet apart.

On Sunday, November 4, 1973 and again on Sunday, November 11, Mr. Hoville visited the site and verified the existence of the 6-inch-wide track as well as the imprints which he interpreted as being from the landing gear. On the 11th, Mr. Hoville discovered more flattened and discolored vegetation further back from the "landing" area — as well as broken bushes.

It is impossible to read a report such as this and not lament the fact that the R.s, though sufficiently interested in the events transpiring to occasionally glance over and notice the activity, made no attempt to investigate. This case involves unaccountable smoke which subsided, then two objects and five figures on the ground — but no one observed the arrival or departure of any of these phenomena. Therefore it can't be labelled a genuine UFO. However, the description of the two objects and the figures, as well as the colors displayed, correlate sufficiently with other cases so that we can assume that had the R.s investigated or at least observed continually, they would have seen the occupants and smaller object re-enter the large object which then would fly off, making it a case of an unidentified flying object or UFO. As things stand, this case involves an unidentified landed object. There was no evidence to indicate that any land-based vehicle had been in the vicinity of the site.

Airline

(Continued from Page One)

airport and in his words, "There it was. An eerie, brilliant red ball of light."

"I was glued to my seat. I just couldn't move. I didn't know what to think. Never in my life had I seen anything like it before," Stevens said.

Stevens then grabbed a pair of binoculars and watched as the object slowly moved eastward toward the airport.

"It was one mass of red light and pulsating on and off at irregular intervals. I've been trying to figure how big it was and supposed it was approximately the same size as one of our early American space capsules, only it was round like a big ball."

Stevens said the object would light up for a second, then switch off for four or five seconds, then it would quickly go on and off a couple of times, then light up for perhaps a whole minute. He said it was totally erratic in the lighting

sequence — there was no pattern at all.

Stevens looked at the radar but it registered nothing. "Suddenly," Stevens stated, "about 30 seconds after it was first spotted, it stopped moving and just hovered about a mile west of the Airport at an altitude of around 1,000 feet."

The object hung there for more than a minute, pulsating on and off. It was very eerie, Stevens said, "as if it was figuring out what to do next." Then it began to move again, changing direction and gradually climbing into the northwest.

Stevens was sure the object wasn't a balloon because the prevailing wind was eight or nine knots from the northwest.

At about this time an Eastern Airlines 727 and a Braniff International 727 jet came into the area and were preparing to land.

Stevens had visual contact with the Eastern jet so he radioed the pilot and asked if he could see anything. The object was four miles distant from the 727's position. At first the pilot informed Stevens that he could see nothing out of the usual, but as he came down to 3500 feet and turned onto his final approach course, he spotted it. It was 1500 feet off his left wing and he told Stevens, "It's huge. I don't know what the hell it is."

As the Eastern jet flew under the object, the Braniff pilot got on the radio and said he was going to take a look at it. The Braniff craft levelled off and then reported it was below him at 1,000 feet altitude.

The two jets actually had the object "sandwiched" between them for a few seconds, then the object suddenly began to accelerate downward at tremendous speed.

At that point, Stevens looked at the radar again and was surprised to see that the object was registering. Four times at four-second intervals, the radar recorded a blip exactly in the position of the object — about four miles from the Control Tower.

After the fourth blip, the screen went blank except for the signals it was picking up from the two aircraft. About this turn of events, Stevens said: "I just can't explain why it (the radar) should suddenly cease to get a return signal on that object. That radar will pick up anything that's flying — from weather balloons to birds."

Using binoculars, Stevens watched as the object continued to move northwest. Its speed had reduced again to a slow movement. Finally it stopped moving and hung in midair for about a minute, then began a rapid descent. The red light began flashing on and off very quickly. It looked as though it would crash into the ground. But at 1,500 feet altitude, it suddenly stopped. And there was nothing more to be seen.

Besides Mr. Stevens and the two pilots (and possibly some passengers), Chester Blanchard, 30, sergeant in charge of

Airport security also viewed the object.

The two pilots (Captain J. Noyes of Eastern Airlines and the Braniff pilot who refused to be identified) reported to Blanchard that they got within one-half mile of the object but could go no closer because of passenger safety regulations.

Noyes, when interviewed, estimated the object to be 7 or 8 feet in diameter and said its vertical speed was faster than any plane flying today.

A final note — UFOs in the past have been generally shy where populated areas are concerned. The trend seems to be changing. At any rate, the sighting of a UFO by two pilots, from above and below, as well as corroborating witnesses on the ground (Blanchard and other San Antonians), the testimony of an air traffic controller, as well as radar confirmation, make this a most impressive report.

Bulletin

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a hill behind Sutton, West Virginia to investigate a report that a saucer had landed there. They didn't see a saucer but did see a "monster" ten feet high, four feet wide with bulging eyes a foot apart, sweaty, blood-red face and green glowing body. When Lemon shone his flash on the creature it started toward them with a floating, bouncing motion, and the group fled in hysterics. They told their story to state police and later the officers and a posse armed with shotguns went to the spot and found skidmarks where no car could have been, and the "sickening metallic odor" described by the group. Mrs. May also said the thing hissed as it moved. After the experience, the party was nearly prostrated with fright and several of the children had to be put to bed under a Doctor's care.

Readers' Forum

Dear APRO Staff:

I have finally gotten around to reading the Proceedings of the 5th APRO UPO Symposium of June 15 held at Pottstown, Pa. (I am an APRO member but couldn't attend, unfortunately.) I just want to thank you for publishing these proceedings so that those of us who couldn't be there could benefit from the papers given. I thought that each report was excellent and the combination of subjects covered gave quite a variety and depth to the whole UFO field that you don't often see in one publication. Thank you!

(signed) Joyce Neville
Buffalo, New York

Since Biblical times, there have been accounts of UFO sightings. Sightings are increasing year after year and yet most

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Forum

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people know little of the subject.

Those of us who study the phenomenon are long past the stage of believing in UFOs. We know they exist. We must now find out where they come from and why. There are many theories and we all have our own "Pet" theories. I won't go into mine here.

The point I am trying to make is that the general public must be educated on the subject. For too long it has been hidden and ridiculed by both government and media.

Now is the time for us all to come forward and to do our part to educate the people. Let the public have all the facts. They can make up their own minds, but at least they will have something to work with.

I applaud this new column. We can now share our views through APRO. I would be most happy to share my views on any aspect of the UFO phenomenon with all who write. Let us put our minds and thoughts together.

Thank you, APRO, for a step forward and for being one of the best organizations in the field.

Mrs. D. Glaessgen
P. O. Box 125

Pompton Plains, New Jersey

Delayed Issue

The July-August issue of the *Bulletin* was exactly one month late for two reasons: (1) APRO changed printing houses, and (2) Influenza swept headquarters, practically immobilizing the staff.

The combination of the two made it impossible to meet our usual publication deadline. However, work on the November-December issue is going ahead at this writing and we anticipate no further delays. The staff appreciates the patience and understanding exhibited by the membership in this matter.

New Mexico Reports

By R. C. Hecker, Field Investigator

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
May 25, 1973

ABSTRACT:

A 14-year-old boy was burned by a mysterious flash of light near his home.

CASE HISTORY:

Fourteen-year-old Michael Paulikonis, 4938 Palo Alto SE, was sitting on his back porch when his mother, Mrs. Paulikonis, saw a bright flash of light in the sky. Going outside, she found that her son had been burned on his face and

hands. He was taken to Baatan Memorial Hospital, where he was treated for second-degree burns and released. Albuquerque Patrolman Lee Hodges searched the area of the Paulikonis's home, but he was unable to determine the cause of the flash of light.

MANZANO LABORATORY KIRTLAND AFB EAST

November 6, 1973

ABSTRACT:

An oblate spherical object was sighted in a high security area. Four jets were dispatched to intercept and identify the object, but it left the area before the jets arrived on the scene.

CASE HISTORY:

At 2145 hours, November 6, 1973, an air policeman sighted a large glowing object hovering over Plant No. 3 (nuclear weapons inspection facility), Manzano Laboratory area, Kirtland AFB East (formerly Sandia Base). The object was described as oblate spherical in shape, 150 in diameter, golden in color, and absolutely silent. The object was hovering approximately 100 feet over Plant No. 3. The nine other air policemen on duty in that area were alerted to the presence of the intruder. While the other air policemen moved into positions affording views of the object, a call was put through to Kirtland East for assistance. According to my informant (one of the air policemen who saw the UFO), four interceptors (F-101's) of the 150th fighter group, New Mexico Air National Guard, were scrambled to intercept the object. As the interceptors grouped in the skies over Kirtland AFB West, the object began moving in an easterly direction and passed out of sight over the Manzano Mountains at treetop level (below the radar horizon). By the time the jets had arrived on the scene, the object had completely vanished.

INVESTIGATION:

I interviewed one of the air policemen who observed the object. He received word of the object's location when the alarm was sounded over his transceiver. He also listened to all of the calls going into the Kirtland tower from the other security officers. When I interviewed him approximately one week after the incident, he said that military officials were upset with the incident. He requested that I not identify the source of my information due to immediate censoring of the report. He said that officially the sighting had not occurred; there were no references to it in intelligence briefs (which he had access to) in succeeding days.

I checked with the Albuquerque F.A.A. Control Center to see if there were any aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting. They informed me that they did not keep air traffic records, and that I should talk with air traffic

personnel at Albuquerque International Airport. Tower personnel said I should consult the Control Center for such information.

Next I tried to call Colonel Fink, commander of the 150th Fighter group, New Mexico Air National Guard. He was not available for comment. I called Sandia Base Information Service and asked if they had any information concerning the sighting. I was told that the Air Force is no longer interested in UFOs, then they conducted an investigation of my background (see Comments).

I asked a friend of mine in the Bernalillo County Deputy Sheriff's office to check out the sighting through officers he knew at Kirtland AFB. He was told to mind his own business.

COMMENTS:

When I called the Sandia Base information office, I only gave them my name and the fact that I was a private UFO investigator. A month later, Mr. Buck Battin, a reporter for KOAT-TV (Channel 7), was given the assignment to do a UFO special. He called the Sandia Base information office to gather material. They told him they had no UFO information. They said they knew of a UFO investigator and gave him my name, address, telephone number, and a bit of my background. I learned of this through Mr. Battin.

CONCLUSIONS:

The data in this case is not sufficient to warrant an identification of the object. However, it is clear that whatever the object was, military officials have gone to great lengths to censor this report.

TIJERAS CANYON, NEW MEXICO
April 15, 1974

ABSTRACT:

A man and his wife reported a maneuvering, circular, flatish object east of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

CASE HISTORY:

At 1630 hours, April 15, 1974, Mrs. George Torres, Tijeras Canyon, New Mexico, was washing dishes in her kitchen when, looking at a window which faces south (in the direction of the Manzano Laboratory nuclear weapons storage area, Kirtland AFB East), she observed an object cruising on a northerly course over the low hills back of their home. She called to her husband, Mr. George Torres, to come outside and see the strange craft. He was watching television at the time, and confirmed the time of the sighting by television program changing. By the time Mr. Torres arrived outside, the object had changed course and was flying in an easterly direction at an estimated altitude of 2,000 feet. Mr. Torres stated that he had the distinct impression of flatness while viewing the object, like viewing a coin on end, along with the impression of

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New Mexico

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a circular basal cross-section. The object appeared to be 50 to 75 feet in diameter. It was constructed of a grayish material that did not reflect the afternoon sunlight. The object displayed a distinct whirling motion, as it rotated about its central axis. There was no sound, nor was there any visible means of propulsion. As the two witnesses watched, the object turned to the south (without banking during the maneuver), passed momentarily behind a small mountain peak (at which time it was not visible), then again turned into an easterly course and vanished over the Manzano Mountains. The duration of the sighting was approximately one minute.

INVESTIGATION:

The day of the sighting was a warm and clear spring day. It was one of the few afternoons in which there was no wind. Visibility was unlimited. The absence of any wind and the maneuverability of the object rule out a balloon as the stimulus for the sighting.

Immediately south of the witnesses' home is the Manzano Laboratory high security area of Kirtland AFB East. The area is restricted to all private and commercial aircraft below 3,000 feet. Commercial air traffic patterns are west and south of the Manzano Laboratory area. An enquiry was made with the Albuquerque F.A.A. Control Center to see if there were any aircraft in the area at the time of the sighting. They stated that they were not at liberty to give out any air traffic information. They also repeated the earlier statement (made during the investigation of another sighting in the same area) that they did not keep records of air traffic.

When asked if he thought the object was an airplane, Mr. Torres stated that he had observed military, commercial and private aircraft in the area on numerous occasions, and the object was definitely not an airplane or helicopter. This investigator has also seen numerous aircraft in the Tijeras Canyon area and in each case all aircraft flying below 8,000 feet have been easily identified.

A check was made with the Bernalillo County Deputy Sheriff's office to see if they had received any reports of the object. The result was negative.

CONCLUSIONS:

While an airplane or helicopter cannot be completely ruled out as the stimulus for this sighting, the physical description of the object, its structural features (flatness, circular cross-section, whirling motion, etc.), its controlled maneuverability, and the absence of sound and any discernible means of propulsion rules out the aircraft hypothesis.

ALBUQUERQUE/CHILLI

NEW MEXICO

May 17, 1974

ABSTRACT:

A reported metallic object crashed in the vicinity of Chilli, New Mexico.

CASE HISTORY:

At 2210 hours, May 17, 1974, electronic scanning instruments at the Manzano Laboratory section of Kirtland AFB East registered a tremendous burst of energy in the 250 to 275 mega hertz range. The energy was so intense it threw all of their instruments completely off scale. The burst of energy was first noted in the earth's upper atmosphere. Before the energy died out, a trajectory was plotted. A recovery team was immediately dispatched to the designated impact area. An area southwest of the small mountain community of Chilli, New Mexico, was cordoned off. A few hours later what was described as a metallic, circular object approximately 60 feet in diameter (before being dismantled for hauling) was quietly moved into a hangar at Kirtland AFB.

INVESTIGATION:

I talked with the man who was monitoring the electronic scanning equipment at Manzano Laboratories when the initial burst of energy was registered. (Due to his current military status, his name is being withheld from this report.) This individual has given me leads to sightings in the past which have always proven valid in the past, so I do not doubt his word in regard to this incident.

COMMENTS:

After being told of this incident, I was stopped by a man who identified himself as a Kirtland AFB officer. He ordered me to forget everything I had been told about this incident.

CONCLUSIONS:

The last development in this case (the order I was given to forget about it) indicates that something out of the ordinary occurred. When I asked my informant if it was either American or Russian space debris which was recovered, he flatly said no.

It Really Was A Meteor!

In the recent UFO literature, there have been some articles which discuss the great fireball seen over the northern continental divide of the United States and Canada on August 10, 1972.¹ This spectacular sight was erroneously described as a UFO. The facts are that there were numerous observations including still and cine-photography by many observers along the meteor's path, as well as infrared observations by a U.S. Air Force satellite; and that the velocity, path and appearance of the meteor were consistent with the record of historical

meteor observations; and the reported peculiarities, such as sonic booms and discordant visual observations are common characteristics of fireball observations. Although we all wish for a well-observed daylight UFO case, wishful thinking cannot justify ignoring such facts. This note is so that the readers of the *APRO Bulletin* will have the true story. Careful analysis by experienced meteor specialists² and examination of the available photos³ leads to the inescapable conclusion that the August 10, 1972 object was indeed a very bright meteor.

¹See Canadian UFO Report, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1974, p. 2.

²See Nature, February 15, 1974, p. 449.

³See Sky and Telescope, July, 1974, p. 4.

Another Mystery Sphere

By Professor Theodore Spickler

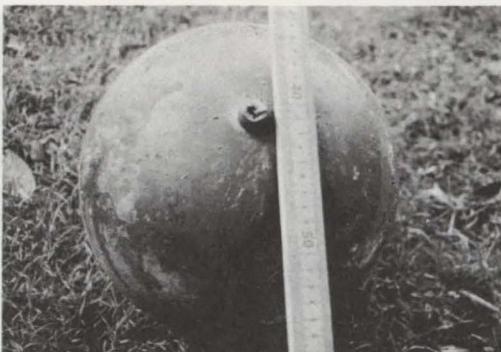
Keith Hammerman was squirrel hunting on the farm of Ollie Wagner on Saturday morning, September 7. Keith's father-in-law, Hugh Stevenson, (614-468-2127), has used Ollie's farm near Lowell, Ohio for many years as a hunting ground and opened the way for Keith to try his hand for the first time.

Keith was walking up a wooded hillside (bearing 310 degrees) when he heard a loud sonic boom followed by a sharp crack, followed by a swishing noise. Then he saw, about 50 feet ahead through the low scrub trees, a smoking area and detected a thick, sulphurous-type smell. By this time he was quite frightened and (probably) ran the 3/4 to 1 mile back to his car parked on a back country dirt road. He drove to Ollie's farm and sat on the tailgate of the car for 45 minutes trying to calm down.

Ollie arrived at 11:30 a.m. and saw Keith, who was obviously frightened. Keith asked Ollie if there was a big gun around. Keith described what had happened and gave a description to Ollie of the smoking, smelly location. Keith left that afternoon vowing never again to go squirrel hunting. Ollie followed the instructions Keith had given him and trudged off early Saturday evening into the brush in a search for the source of Keith's fears. After about 3 hours, he finally found a sphere neatly buried in the ground with only a small circle exposed to view.

About 100 feet before arriving at the site, Ollie detected the strong odor described as sulfur-like but yet clearly not sulfur. He has never smelled anything like it and was aided in finding the sphere by following the smell. The top of the sphere

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Two views of the mystery sphere found at Lowell, Ohio.

Sphere

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was clearly shiny yet bluish-gray in color. He plucked it from the ground and carried it home. (Around 8:30 Saturday night)

Ollie and his wife, "Goldie," had both heard a few sonic booms some time that morning.

ANALYSIS

Several sonic booms, up to a possible 4 in number, were heard by many witnesses within a few miles of Lowell.

Jerry Schwendeman heard them about 10:30 a.m. and describes 3 or 4 in the direction of "Macksburg" 4 miles away (the proper direction of Ollie's farm). He idly wondered if road crews were at work.

Clifford McNabb, Clyde Jackson, Frankie McCreery, Judy Hoover, as well as Ollie and "Goldie," reported hearing the booms.

Keith has correctly described how the object should have sounded. Since it was moving toward him at a supersonic speed, it would have landed before the boom. After landing, the shockwave would reach his ears (nearly instantly), then the sound of impact of sphere against ground followed by the whistling noise.

Keith reported that he was sitting on the car about 45 min. after returning from the impact scene. This places his arrival at the farm in the vicinity of 10:45. Allowing him 15-20 min. to run back to the car and drive to the farm, places the probable impact time between 10:20-10:30. This is consistent with the statements of sonic boom reporters. There is a quarry located along the road to Ollie Wagner's farm but they are closed on Saturday. No other possible cause for the booms can be identified.

The impact site is moist "white clay" covered by a thick layer of the type of moss collected for Christmas tree decorations. No crater was made; the sphere left a clean, hard impression in the clay where it obviously struck at a great speed. The bottom of the hole was 15 inches from the undisturbed ground level.

Since the sphere is about 11-1/2 inches

in diameter, there was presumably a 4-1/2 inch depression to the top of the sphere. Pieces of bluish-gray ablated metal from the object were cleanly imbedded into the side of the hole and a gray streaking stain could be seen radiating inward toward the bottom of the hole from around the sides. A thin layer of clay was heated to a very high temperature and baked onto the bottom of the sphere. Keith reported much steam rising from the site, which is to be expected considering the high moisture content of the clay.

The hole is slightly inclined from the vertical; a trajectory of about 10 degrees from the vertical is indicated with the angle inclined toward a bearing of 310 degrees (northwest).

There was a clear area among the young saplings through which the sphere could have passed except for one dead branch. On this branch at the expected location a twig was freshly broken (unnoticed by Ollie until brought to his attention).

The impact site is very difficult to locate; Ollie is probably the only person (except for his son) who could find it again.

I suggested that he cover the hole with something to protect it from rain and curiosity seekers.

The sphere weighs about 20 pounds, is 11-1/2 inches in diameter, has a thick seam around the center that could be a weld. It has two "latch" type protrusions along the side opposite to one another and has two other highly melted cylindrical protrusions along the ends at 90 degrees to the seam. One of these protrusions is not quite sealed. A 1/4-inch hole extends into the hollow interior.

The sphere rings with a clear sound when struck and exhibits no radioactivity. The surface of the sphere is ablated. (Shows evidence of having melted and streamed over the surface. Some bubbles formed.) The bluish-gray color is typical of steel that has undergone a heat treatment similar to atmospheric entry.

The shiny upper side was still shiny Sunday evening (around 5:00 p.m.) when first seen by Helen White of the Parkersburg Sentinel. She could still barely make out the strange odor coming

from the interior of the sphere. By Tuesday evening, the shininess was completely gone as also was the odor.

CONCLUSIONS

This is no hoax. Ollie Wagner is straight, sincere, and puzzled by the sphere. He wants an explanation and also hopes there may possibly be some financial reward of unknown origin. This last idea was planted by friends and relatives.

At this point we can only speculate as to the origin of the sphere. Ideas range from some kind of ballistics ordnance to a primitive foreign satellite.

U.S. space debris is unlikely to be so heavy. Steel is not an appropriate material to use in a weight-conscious device.

I have no idea as to the typical construction characteristics of foreign satellites; possibly China or Italy may have shot up a simple, crude device for political purposes.

Possibly this device was intended to hold some valuable fluid under pressure such as liquid helium or a gas.

The agency which keeps track of all satellites and parts should be contacted for the identity of any object due for reentry.

I would be very much surprised if a terrestrial explanation cannot be quickly produced.

Some Additional Thoughts

A sample of the impact clay has been tested. Assuming that the clay exhibits a restoring force characteristic similar to that of Hooke's law, it was possible to calculate the energy of impact. The necessary kinetic energy for the sphere then suggests an impact speed of about 1200 feet per second. This is consistent with the claims of an accompanying shock wave. It is possible that the other two or three booms were echoes from the shallow hills in the area.

A sphere of this size and weight would rapidly reach terminal velocity if released from a few thousand feet. This terminal velocity would be considerably less than

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Sphere

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sonic.

The object was apparently made from two halves Butt-welded together. This had a presumed intention of strength which suggests a purpose that might include such possibilities as:

- a) pressure tank for some liquified gas
- b) A device for taking air particulate samples at high speed*
- c) ornamental sphere such as might be found on the top of a bridge or flag pole! (how such an object came to be falling from the sky at supersonic speeds is beyond reasonable conjecture — this could make the final identification of the device extremely difficult.)

The ablation effect on the sphere is slight which suggests that it was not under an extremely high atmospheric heat for very long. It would be possible to duplicate this effect with an oxy-acetylene torch but only with great care and at tremendous difficulty. I am not inclined to view this case as a hoax.

The "latches" are probably remainder remnants of a weld that fastened the sphere to something else.

*Such a unit is known to be used on the SR-71 high altitude (100,000 feet) reconnaissance SAC plane.

Five Objects Hover Over Canadian Field

At 11:30 a.m. Sunday, September 1, farmer Edwin Fuhr, 6½ miles out of Langenburg, Sask., Canada, was harvesting his rape (a seed oil plant) crop. As he approached a slough on his land, he saw what he thought was a "spun Aluminum duck blind" (He said later that he had seen such a blind advertised in Field & Stream Magazine) and assumed it had been placed there by a neighbor. (He also described it as looking like stainless steel.) He dismounted from his swather (a mowing machine) and approached the object on foot. As he drew near, he noted that the object was a symmetrical bun shape and that it was hovering about a foot off the ground. He noted also that the grass underneath was being imparted a clockwise swirling motion. While watching for about two minutes from a distance of 15 feet, he noticed that "the whole thing was turning." Returning to the swather, he noted four additional identical objects to his left. He sat motionless for about 15 minutes and watched. He said he wanted to leave but couldn't (the inference here is that he was too terrified to operate the controls of his swather properly). After about 15 minutes, the objects all left



Edwin Fuhr indicates where one of the objects hovered.

simultaneously moving straight up. They exhibited a grey mist underneath and "a strong downwind."

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police heard about the case by word of mouth and launched an investigation. The corporal in charge of the area is of the opinion that Mr. Fuhr's account is reliable.

In his investigation, the R.C.M.P. constable found a circular swirl of grass for each UFO position reported by Mr. Fuhr. In the center of each swirl the grass remained erect. Mr. Don Coulthard, APRO F.I., will continue this investigation. Further details will be reported in the APRO Bulletin when available.

An Analysis Of The Fish Model

The Betty and Barney Hill experience has become one of the classic cases of its type in UFO annals. The Portsmouth, New Hampshire, couple claimed they suffered a puzzling memory loss immediately following a close-range UFO observation on the night of September 19-20, 1961. About a week and a half to two weeks later Mrs. Hill said she had a series of vivid dreams in which she and her husband were abducted by humanoid beings and subjected to a physical examination aboard the UFO. These dreams so impressed Betty Hill that in November, 1961, she wrote a five-page account of her dream episodes describing, among other things, a star map that allegedly showed her abductors' home star and routes of trade and exploration

between the star and others nearby. But it was not until 1964 that Mrs. Hill, under post-hypnotic suggestion, reproduced the map in a drawing. (Both Mr. and Mrs. Hill were hypnotized by a Boston psychiatrist and, while in a trance state, independently told similar stories of being captured and examined aboard a UFO.)

Since the star pattern represented, in a sense, something tangible from the Hill experience, the existence or nonexistence of this pattern might be tested. If the map were a genuine portrayal, several assumptions would be obvious at the outset: (1) the home star must be one of two large circles connected by many lines; (2) the map was made from a vantage point near the origin star; (3) our sun was present somewhere on the map with a line to it, and therefore (4) the map depicted our local stellar neighborhood.

Nevertheless, the task of isolating and identifying a unique pattern of a dozen stars from thousands in the sun's vicinity presented a formidable challenge. Only a few interested amateurs made any serious attempt to uncover the pattern. In 1968 one gentleman with some knowledge of the heavens wrote to me, discussing his approach to the problem, and then closed his lengthy letter with the following: "I would like to add that this is one amateur's attempt to solve a riddle that, I believe, deserves professional help." Of course, he was right, but unfortunately few professional astronomers would have dared tackle such a project because, in the first place, the UFO subject, in general, is frowned upon by the scientific community and, secondly, the Hill case simply is too sensational a report to warrant the expenditure of even a

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Models

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modicum of energy when there are "more important" problems awaiting solution. That, I sadly report, still is the prevailing attitude toward UFOs among the vast majority of scientists.

THE FISH MODELS

In 1966 Marjorie E. Fish, a 34-year-old elementary schoolteacher in the little town of Oak Harbor, Ohio, decided to search for the star pattern by constructing a three-dimensional model of the volume of space surrounding the sun. Ms. Fish, though self-taught in astronomy, is an extraordinarily gifted and dedicated person. She has a B.S. degree in sociology (with a minor in science), is a MENSA member, and includes among her many interests anthropology, biology, photography, art, and sculpture. Her persistent quest for the precise pattern shown on the Hill map make a fascinating story which can only be summarized here.

After completing her first small model of all known stars out to five parsecs (16 light years), Marjorie realized she would have to cover a larger volume at increasing radius from the sun if she expected any hope of success. Subsequent models consisted of up to 259 beads suspended on string, each bead representing a star colored and sized according to spectral class and positioned at its correctly scaled distance and direction from the sun.

Ms. Fish anticipated discovering many patterns that would resemble the Hill map. But this was not to be the case, and eventually only one remarkable set of stars emerged. It was a search that required six years, more than 20 models of solar neighborhood out to 20 parsecs (65 light years), the checking of thousands of stars in a dozen catalogs, and thousands of hours of photography and visual inspection of the models from different angles. Because she experienced difficulty in obtaining the star catalogs she needed, it took Marjorie two years to locate what she believed were the first five stars in the pattern. Another seven or eight months revealed the next four stars. Finally, more than three additional years of intensive work were necessary to find the last three stars in the pattern.

A visit to Betty Hill's home proved especially helpful in 1969. For the first time, apparently, Mrs. Hill disclosed that the star map she allegedly viewed seemed three-dimensional (like a reflective hologram), appeared about three feet wide and two feet high, and contained tinted stars that glowed.

The star Zeta Tucanae, though not a



visible part of the Hill drawing, led directly to the discovery of the final stars in the pattern in the early autumn of 1972. For some time Zeta Tucanae had been a prime candidate as the tenth pattern star but stubbornly refused to fit into the network. Finally, Marjorie realized the star might be occulted by Zeta¹ or Zeta² Reticuli from Betty's viewing position (the latter two stars were described as being larger than the others — the size of nickels — and could have hidden another star). For Zeta Tucanae to be obscured, Marjorie found she had to view it from below the model at a 45-degree angle. When this was tried, the full pattern appeared at once. The difficult angle plus blockage by the base and frame in various models had prevented earlier discovery of the complete pattern.

CONDITIONS FOR LIFE

Before we can understand the significance of Marjorie Fish's results, we must know something about the evolution and types of stars in our galaxy. Stars form when the heat of a contracting dust and gas cloud causes hydrogen fusion to occur in the core. After an unstable period of some millions of years, the star attains a state of equilibrium and begins to shine evenly, arriving on the so-called main sequence where it spends most of its life. When the core has exhausted a large fraction of its supply of hydrogen, the star leaves the main sequence, swelling into a red giant (or exploding) and then shrinking into a white dwarf or tiny neutron star.

Depending upon its original mass (the total quantity of matter in the star), the star normally falls into one of seven primary spectral classes — O, B, A, F; G, K, and M — arranged in order of decreasing surface temperature. O stars are large, blue, and hot; G types (our sun) are yellow and of medium size and temperature; M stars are small, red, and cool. Each class is further divided into ten subgroups from 0 to 9, again with decreasing temperature.

If planetary life is to arise and evolve into complex intelligent organisms, a star must satisfy several criteria: (1) it must reside on the main sequence for at least three to four billion years to allow complex life forms time to evolve. This implies a fairly constant, nonvariable heat and light output over this long interval. The more massive a star, the faster it burns and the shorter its lifetime. Hot O, B, and A stars have stable lifetimes of less than three billion years. Stars F through M meet the age requirements for life with residence times ranging from about four to 100 billion years.

(2) The planet must orbit in a habitable thermal zone around the star called the ecosphere. Although O to early F stars have wide ecospheres, their short lifetimes most likely rule out the possibility of life. Late K and M types have long lifetimes but also small ecospheres and sometimes life-destroying stellar flares. The most suitable main-sequence stars for the evolution of life, according to exobiologists, range from about F2 (Sagan, Dole) or F5 (Oliver, Huang) to K1 (Dole) or K5 (Oliver, Sagan). G types probably offer optimum life zone conditions.

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ERROR IN JULY-AUGUST ISSUE

On Page 1 of the July-August *Bulletin*, there appears a photo with the caption: "Photo of alleged landing of UFO at Port Coquitlam, B. C., Canada." That caption is correct but, unfortunately, in the final arrangement of the copy, the printer inserted the wrong photo. The photo which goes with that caption and the headline story of Page 1 of the July-August *Bulletin* is shown above.

In the interest of continuity, the photo which appeared with that caption is shown elsewhere in this issue along with the appropriate story. We are sorry for this error and will redouble our efforts to prevent a similar occurrence in the future.